

New Gas Dealership

658. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would take action for giving more domestic gas dealerships in Medak District of Andhra Pradesh, where people had been urging and protesting for the same; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As on 31.10.2006, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are operating 21 LPG distributorships in Medak District of Andhra Pradesh. OMCs propose to set up 17 more LPG distributorships in the Medak District under their marketing plans.

Research on hydrogen fuel

659. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the research on hydrogen fuel is at its culmination stage and at the end of this year Government have plan to open some hydrogen-dispensing gas stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what exactly is the roadmap on this prepared by the Hydrogen Energy Board;

(d) the details of private-public cooperation in developing hydrogen fuel in the country; and

(e) whether it is a fact that fuel cells which store hydrogen is an expensive technology and what efforts Government are making to produce hydrogen from a renewable source like water or bio-waste, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is not a fact that the research on hydrogen is at its culmination stage. Research and development efforts for production of hydrogen from different methods are in different stages of development. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has taken up a project in collaboration with the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. for setting up a hydrogen dispensing station in New Delhi.

(c) and (d) the National Hydrogen Energy Road Map has suggested pathways for development of a total hydrogen energy system in the country that includes hydrogen production, its storage, transport and delivery, applications, hydrogen safety, codes and standards; public awareness and capacity building. The National Hydrogen Energy Road Map has suggested implementation of specific projects with public-private partnership up to 2020. Major private players like Tatas, Mahindras are part of the Hydrogen Energy Board.

(e) Fuel cells are electro-chemical devices, which generate electricity. Fuel cells consume hydrogen for electricity generation rather than storing hydrogen and are presently very expensive as compared to existing conventional energy devices. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has been supporting research and development project for production of hydrogen by splitting of water using renewable energy and also from bio-wastes such as distillery effluents, bagasse, etc.

Shortage of LPG in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand

660. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is tremendous shortage of LPG in the tribal district of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand for the last several months;

(b) if so, how Government propose to rectify the situation; and

(c) whether Government are going to release more gas connections to the tribals in the tribal dominated States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and if so, the plan for the next six months indicating how many gas connections to be released in each of the States, with the district-wise figures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) At present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country, including the States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.